



FROM DEPUTY COMMISSIONER CONDER

Reducing the road toll

In early September the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Sport, Judy Spence and I had the pleasure of unveiling an additional 10 high visibility patrol vehicles to the Queensland Police Service fleet. These vehicles are additional to the existing 10 high visibility patrol vehicles already on patrol around Queensland.

Currently one high visibility vehicles is allocated to each police region, with two stationed at State Traffic Support Branch in Brisbane. The additional vehicles will be distributed to those areas with the greatest need with eight going to the four police regions with the highest road toll, and a further two going to the

State Traffic Support Branch. These vehicles will be deployed to provide maximum visibility during peak periods to reduce the road toll and increase safety.

Road safety continues to be one of Queensland's most serious issues, with the road toll at the beginning of September this year reaching 255. This issue affects almost every member of the community as most of us are on a daily basis a driver, passenger or a pedestrian. We all need to know how to take care of ourselves and respect others on the road, and I would encourage everybody to get actively involved in understanding road safety.

Once again police across the state will be out in force to promote our traffic campaigns and get the message across to drivers disobeying the law that when they are caught they should be prepared to face the consequences. Unfortunately while police continue to work tirelessly toward providing the community with a safer road environment there are still drivers who continue to disregard not only the law, but their safety and the safety of others.

This year the road toll is 42 higher than the road toll at the corresponding time last year. As this tragic pattern continues it is important that we strengthen our

resources, with these additional high visibility patrol vehicles.

I would urge road users to take note of these figures and to be aware that they are not just statistics, they are lives. They were people with families and friends, they had careers and goals for their futures.

The new vehicles are not only aimed at reinforcing to motorists that police are out to enforce the law, but to remind people that a split second decision has the potential to change your life.

The sad reality is you're dead a long time. The loss of a life on our roads is senseless and it can be avoided.

Commissioner Atkinson's message continued from page 3...

INDUCTION CEREMONY

On September 5, 2007 I attended the Queensland Police Academy, Oxley Campus, to witness the induction of 119 new officers. Of these officers, 28 had just completed the PACE training program while 91 officers had completed their initial PROVE training program. I again would like to publicly welcome these officers into the police family. I have no doubt that together with their keeness and training, they are well placed to make an immediate contribution to policing in Queensland.

APEC – CAIRNS AND COOLUM

APEC has been a focus for us recently with the Far Northern Region hosting the trade ministers' summit in Cairns and North Coast Police Region hosting the Finance Ministers' Summit at Coolum. I would like to thank all staff in the regions, all specialist units and members of the Major Events Planning Unit for their efforts in which I consider was a very professional police response. The QPS also had a number of staff in Sydney assisting New South Wales Police with their organisation and policing of the APEC heads of

government summit which saw 21 of our world leaders gathered together.

AWARDS

Four Queensland police officers and a staff member have recently been honoured at the Australasian Women and Policing Council forum in Melbourne. Assistant Commissioner Ann Lewis received the Council's most prestigious award, the Bev Lawson Memorial Award which recognises the most outstanding woman. Detective Superintendent Gayle Hogan received the Most Outstanding

Female Investigator Award, Senior Sergeant Donna Fyfe received the Most Outstanding Female Practitioner Award, Inspector Joanne Aitken being highly commended for female administration and Barbara Blackmur received the Excellence in Employment Initiative Award for her work with the new part-time policing arrangements. I congratulate all these officers for recognition of their hard work and professionalism.